
FY 2020
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**.

Submit form electronically (as Word doc) to james.chynoweth@usda.gov by **August 7, 2020**.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them after completing form.)

Project Name	Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. New Line Request
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Lochsa-Powell Ranger District
County where project located?	Idaho
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Adam McClory, Lands Uses Program Manager, adam.mcclory@usda.gov , (208) 301-8224
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T. 37 N., R. 14 E., Section 34
Decision Maker's Name <i>District Ranger/Line Officer responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Cheryl Probert, Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Sup.
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No.
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>Categorical Exclusion categories can be found here:</i> <i>FSH1909.15 30 Amend-2018-1 CEs</i> <i>See ** below regarding 220.6(d)(x) projects.</i>	(3) Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land. 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3)
** A Project Record and written Decision are not required for projects using a <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, except at the Decision Maker's discretion. IF being submitted under <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision? Yes No <i>If no, this form does not need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</i> <i>If yes, provide the category in the block above, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner. Don't forget that the Proponent must submit shapefiles as well.</i>	

At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal X External*

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see block below) unless otherwise specified.

**For external scoping, please complete the next three blocks.*

Provide names and mailing addresses of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. to be included (other than those listed below*) for External Scoping.

- DO NOT leave this box blank: If no additional individuals are to be externally scoped please enter NA.
N/A

** The following have requested to receive scoping information via hard copy (postal mailings) for all projects: Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, Stan Burt, James Colantino, Mike Cook, Friends of the Clearwater, and Penny Peck.*

Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune? Yes No X

If yes, the scoping period will start the day after the Legal Notice is published.

If no, the scoping period will start ~4 days after the date the scoping letters are mailed.

The scoping period will be 14 days unless the Decision Maker wants to change it. Days

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

X **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

Moderate level: Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

C4: Big-game winter range

What are the Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards* *relevant to your project?*

C4: This MA contains land within inventoried big-game winter range and suitable timber-producing land. There are no goals and standards identified that are relevant to this project.

Forest-wide standards for the Lands resource that pertain to the project include:

- p. Provide for the use of utility corridors and small hydroelectric facilities to the extent that Forest Plan direction can be met.

Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes* **No**

If yes, which one?

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* **No**

If yes, which one(s)?

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes **No**

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes **No**

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes **No**

Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.

Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC), Inc. provides electrical service to public and private entities in the Powell area, therefore much of the project area is already disturbed with powerline infrastructure. MEC operates and maintains their electric lines under an existing Forest Service authorization (SEE247) administered by the Lolo National Forest. Authorization on the Clearwater National Forest originally dated back to 1970. However, to streamline permit administration, the Clearwater and Lolo NF combined authorizations into a master permit in 1985, with the Lolo NF now taking the lead role.

Describe the Desired Conditions of the project area.

NFS Road 111 will continue to provide vehicle access for the public and adjacent landowners, with no notice of buried powerline on the edge of the road prism.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

Missoula Electric Cooperative proposes to establish a new right-of-way (ROW) to provide power to a private landowner. In order to do this a new ROW for a buried powerline will need to be developed on FS Lands, within the existing road prism of National Forest System (NFS) Road 111.

Describe the Proposed Action.

The proposal is to amend the existing Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) authorization (SEE247) to include a new electrical line right-of-way (ROW) on NFS Lands. The administrative action of amending the authorization will be completed by the Lolo National Forest. The new section of buried line/ROW would be included in the annual fees paid for use of NFS Lands.

The proposed action includes:

- Developing a new ROW, approximately 1,700' (.32 miles) long x 5' wide (.20 acres) across NFS Lands. The new ROW will start at the existing MEC ROW on NFS Road 111 (Elk Summit Road) and continue to the boundary of the private property.
- Burying a powerline in the existing road prism of NFS Road 111 to a depth of 36" deep with a vibratory plow.
 - Any surface disturbance would be bladed back to original condition.
 - Burying the line would be conducted when the soil is dry enough to limit ground disturbance.

Project equipment will include:

- Vibratory plow.
- Hand tools.

A Forest Service representative will be on-site periodically to monitor burying of the line. Project work is expected to begin in September, 2020.

The Forest Service is not planning to haul on NFS Road 111. Because all of the work would be done within the existing road prism there should not be a need to close the road during the line burying. MEC will include signage on both ends of the road indicating that road work is taking place. All MEC representatives will have radios and be in regular contact with each other. If a road closure is needed, it would likely only be for 1-2 hours and traffic control would be undertaken by MEC representatives as all workers on-site will be certified flaggers.

Post-implementation:

- Upon completion MEC will be required to reseed the project area with the Forest Service approved seed mix.
- MEC will monitor for the presence of weeds in the new ROW and treat as necessary.
- MEC will be the responsible for maintenance of the ROW, including pruning and removing hazard trees on NFS lands abutting the ROW, as stipulated in their current Forest Service authorization.

Disposition of merchantable timber: No timber will need to be removed for this project.

No additional permits will be needed prior to the beginning of project work.

The project will not change any access restrictions for NFS Road 111.

List the Design Feature / Mitigation Measures * to be included with the Proposed Action.

- NW-3: Remove all mud, soil, and plant parts from off road equipment before moving into project area to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Conduct cleaning off National Forest lands.

** The Design Features and Mitigation Measures documents (pick lists) can be found here:*

- [Box\1900Planning\1950EnviroPolicyProcedures\Mitigation measures\DesignFeatures_March2020.docx](#)
- [Box\1900Planning\1950EnviroPolicyProcedures\Mitigation measures\MitigationMeasures_March2020.docx](#)

** Additional Design Features/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form.*

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mike.hays@usda.gov; 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, derrick.bawdon@usda.gov; 963-4211

Heritage – Christy Mog, christy.mog@usda.gov; 935-4269

Hydrology – TBD

Minerals – Marty Jones, martin.jones@usda.gov; 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, carol.hennessey@usda.gov; 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, alexandra.rozin@usda.gov, 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chris.noyes@usda.gov; 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, james.r.lutes@usda.gov; 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, james.chynoweth@usda.gov; 935-4260

PROJECT MAPS

Please send – per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission.

- **Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.**
- **Make sure the map(s) can fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.**

1. Provide at least one map, **preferably “portrait” orientation**, with the project area / features as:
 - a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
 - a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
 - a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
 - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
 - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
 - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.
2. Please **use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer**.
 - Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
 - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
 - A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
 - Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.
3. The **preferred map scale is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities**:
 - If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
 - If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
 - If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.
4. At a minimum, **all maps should include**:
 - Title (project name and district name only (please));
 - Legend (features clearly labeled)
 - Scale (ending in half miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or in full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles)
 - North Arrow
 - Display the above in boxes with a black outline and a white background (not gray or yellow)
 - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
 - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.
5. Finally, please **include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map**.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

Projects in Roadless Area

What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?	<u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u>
Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	Classification(s):
Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i>	
Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i>	
Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i>	

JC : 6/26/2020

Additional Information: